

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of May 27, 2005 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1 - 12 and 19 - 39 are pending. Of these, claims 1 - 12 have been examined on their merits, while claims 19 - 39 have been withdrawn from further consideration as drawn to a separately patentable subcombination. This withdrawal is respectfully traversed.

While combinations and subcombinations may form different inventions, they need not do so, and certainly not when they are similarly classified, as the examiner has indicated. One feature which renders the measuring arrangement (combination) unique is the measuring instrument (subcombination). Perhaps the instrument is patentable absent the arrangement, but it is doubtful that the arrangement is patentable absent the instrument. And that is the significant factor, so that all claims should be examined in this application. Reconsideration of this election is respectfully requested.

Regarding the priority claimed in this application, it is noted that the certified copy of German application 99 11 9840.9 was filed in parent application, now patent 6,684,340.

The objection to claims 1 - 11 is noted. Claims 1 - 11 have been amended to address and overcome this objection.

The rejection of claims 1, 6 and 10 - 12 as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Venditti, and the rejection of claims 2, 8 and 9 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) Over Venditti in view of Wetzel et al, the rejection of claims 3 - 5 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Venditti in view of Schmidt et al, and the rejection of claim 7 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Venditti in view of Belforte et al are noted and respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 both recite powering by two pairs of lines. Venditti fails to disclose powering any device by two pairs of lines. For this reason alone, Venditti cannot anticipate claims 1 and 10, and the claims which depend therefrom. In Venditti powering of the calibrator 18 occurs, which is only temporarily connected with the measurement instrument 20 instead of the probe 44, via one pair of lines 52, 54. And the calibrator 18 is not, as suggested by the examiner a higher - order unit. Nor is the measurement instrument 20.

Venditti discloses neither the use of one of two supply currents, each flowing in one of two pairs of lines and each powering the measurement unit, nor that one of two supply currents flows via two pair of lines additionally represents a measured value as is claimed here. It is respectfully submitted that Venditti has been basically misunderstood as it is being applied to the present invention, and its application, alone or with Wetzel et al and/or Schmidt et al is misplaced.

As now claimed, the present invention should be allowed with claims 1 - 12 and 19 - 39.

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Respectfully submitted,

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